1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII						
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) CR 20-00068 LEK					
5	Plaintiff,) Honolulu, Hawaii) January 18, 2023					
6 7 8	vs. (1) NICKIE MALI LUM DAVIS Defendant.) SENTENCING ,)))					
9	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE LESLIE E. KOBAYASHI UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE						
11	APPEARANCES:						
12131415	For the Government:	JOHN D. KELLER NICOLE R. LOCKHART SEAN F. MULRYNE United States Department of Justice Criminal Division, Public Integrity Section 1331 F Street NW, Suite 300					
16		Washington, DC 20004					
171819		KENNETH M. SORENSON, AUSA Office of the United States Attorney PJKK Federal Building 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 6100 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850					
20	Also Present:	DARCIE ING-DODSON Senior U.S.Probation Officer					
21222324	For the Defendant:	WILLIAM C. MCCORRISTON, ESQ. DAVID J. MINKIN, ESQ. McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, LLP 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 5-400 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813					
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1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:						
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- 1 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023 1:31 P.M.
- THE COURTROOM MANAGER: Criminal No. 20-00068 LEK,
- 3 United States of America versus Nickie Mali Lum Davis.
- 4 This case has been called for a Sentencing as to Count 1
- 5 of the Felony Information.
- 6 Counsel, please make your appearances for the record.
- 7 MR. KELLER: John Keller on behalf of the
- 8 government, Your Honor, along with Sean Mulryne, Nicole
- 9 Lockhart, and Kenneth Sorenson.
- 10 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon to all of
- 11 you.
- 12 MR. MINKIN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
- David Minkin, Nickie Lum Davis, and Bill McCorriston on
- 14 behalf of Ms. Lum Davis. For the record, Mr. Bryant's
- 15 currently in trial in Central District of California USDC.
- 16 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon to all of
- 17 you. The record will reflect the presence of Ms. Lum Davis.
- 18 How are you today?
- THE DEFENDANT: Hi. How are you?
- 20 THE COURT: Good. And the record will also reflect
- 21 the presence of United States Probation Officer, Ms. Dodson,
- 22 yeah -- Ing-Dodson. Sorry, Darcie.
- 23 All right. You may all be seated.
- 24 All right. So I did receive a copy of the unsigned
- 25 forfeiture order, and now on the bench there's the signed

- 1 forfeiture order. So all parties have signed it, I noticed. I
- 2 looked at it, so I understand that all are in agreement; is
- 3 that correct, Mr. Sorenson?
- 4 MR. SORENSON: I think so, yes, Your Honor.
- 5 Mr. Minkin and I have worked together to get that before the
- 6 Court today, and it's acceptable to us.
- 7 THE COURT: All right. You agree, Mr. Minkin?
- 8 MR. MINKIN: Yes, Your Honor. We worked the past
- 9 couple of days to get the language where everybody was
- 10 satisfied. Mr. Sorenson had to talk up a chain of command, but
- 11 that was resolved.
- And in addition to that, we also have an agreed-upon
- 13 payment schedule that was signed that will not become part of
- 14 the record, but is signed, and Mr. Sorenson has a copy of that.
- 15 THE COURT: All right. So you're satisfied with
- 16 that, Mr. Sorenson?
- 17 MR. SORENSON: Yes, Your Honor, I am. Thank you.
- 18 THE COURT: This is the forfeiture money judgment in
- 19 the amount of \$3 million, correct? And then there's
- 20 acknowledgements of the money judgment and that it'll become a
- 21 final judgment as to Ms. Lum Davis on the date it's entered by
- 22 the court and be part of the sentence and included in the
- 23 judgment of conviction.
- 24 MR. SORENSON: Yeah, I think just to make sure we're
- 25 clear, there's kind of two things going on here. There's a

- 1 preliminary order of forfeiture with respect to the \$40,000,
- 2 and then there's a final order of forfeiture with respect to
- 3 the restitution funds and that's \$3 million.
- 4 So there'll be a final order of forfeiture coming once
- 5 we've done a publication to see if anybody else wants to claim
- 6 any rights to the 40,000, the ancillary hearing portion.
- 7 THE COURT: Well, says here, "So shall forfeit the
- 8 sum of 3 million, then a money judgment in the amount of 3
- 9 million is entered against the defendant."
- MR. SORENSON: And that has to be part of the
- 11 sentencing.
- 12 THE COURT: Right, that has to be part of the
- 13 sentencing. And then you have a separate one as to the
- 14 forfeiture money judgment, right? In terms of --
- MR. SORENSON: Well, there's \$40,000 that was
- 16 seized, and the parties have agreed that that is forfeitable as
- 17 well, and this is the preliminary order of forfeiture for that.
- 18 THE COURT: Okay. But it's the final as to the
- 19 money judgment, the 3,000?
- MR. SORENSON: Yes, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: I mean, 3 million, yeah.
- 22 MR. SORENSON: And if the Court needs more time with
- 23 the order or wants a little more explanation from us, we're
- 24 happy to give it.
- THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to look at it then

- 1 after the hearing and then I'll assume I'll sign it, but I want
- 2 to take a little more time to take a look at it.
- 3 MR. SORENSON: Thank you.
- 4 MR. MINKIN: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 5 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Lum Davis, if you would
- 6 stand.
- 7 So we're here at your sentencing hearing. At the hearing
- 8 I'm going to make certain findings. I'm going to go over what
- 9 I believe to be the aggravating and mitigating factors in your
- 10 case, and then I will ask each of the attorneys to give me
- 11 their position, first the government on what is an appropriate
- 12 sentence for you, and then your attorneys will have an
- 13 opportunity to state that.
- 14 You'll have an opportunity to speak on your behalf, if
- 15 you wish. You don't have to and it certainly won't be held
- 16 against you if you don't.
- 17 And the whole purpose of this, in addition to the very
- 18 complete presentence report, is for me to gather as much
- 19 information as possible to determine an appropriate sentence
- 20 for you. And under the law an appropriate sentence is one that
- 21 is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to meet the
- 22 goals of sentencing, which includes just punishment for the
- 23 offense to which you have pled guilty and been convicted of, to
- 24 dissuade you and others from committing that kind of harm to
- 25 our community, and to give you an opportunity for

- 1 rehabilitation. All right?
- 2 So let me first start by asking you if you and your
- 3 attorneys have had a full and fair opportunity to read, review,
- 4 and discuss the presentence investigation report and any
- 5 addendum and to file objections to that report.
- 6 Have you had that opportunity?
- 7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have, Your Honor.
- 8 THE COURT: All right. You would agree with that,
- 9 Mr. Minkin?
- MR. MINKIN: Yes, Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: All right. You may be seated.
- 12 Court makes the following findings:
- 13 That on August 31, 2020, Ms. Lum Davis pled guilty to a
- 14 single-count Information charging her with Count 1, aiding and
- 15 abetting violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, in
- 16 violation of federal law.
- 17 I now accept her Rule 11(c)(1)(A) plea agreement because
- 18 I am satisfied that the agreement adequately reflects the
- 19 seriousness of the actual offense behavior, and that accepting
- 20 the plea agreement will not undermine the statutory purposes of
- 21 sentencing.
- I now place the presentence report in the record under
- 23 seal. If an appeal is taken, counsel will have access to all
- 24 of the report.
- There are several related cases to this one including:

- 1 In the Eastern District of New York case number Criminal
- 2 18-00538MKB, Defendant 1 is Low Taek Jho;
- In the District of Columbia case Criminal No. 18-343CKK,
- 4 Defendant No. 1 is George Higginbotham;
- 5 And then there's also a District of Columbia case
- 6 Criminal No. 19-00148CKK, Defendant 1 is Prakazrel Michel,
- 7 P-r-a-k-a-z-r-e-l Michel, Defendant No. 2 is Low Taek Jho,
- 8 T-a-e-k, Jho, J-h-o;
- 9 And the District of Columbia case Criminal
- 10 No. 20-00210CKK, Defendant No. 1 is Elliott Broidy.
- 11 There have been many letters in support and I have read
- 12 all of them.
- Does the government have any remaining objections to the
- 14 factual findings or the application of the guidelines to the
- 15 facts?
- MR. KELLER: No, Your Honor.
- 17 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Minkin?
- MR. MINKIN: No, Your Honor.
- 19 THE COURT: All right. So there were objections
- 20 filed; an addendum was prepared. Given the parties' position,
- 21 they accept the explanation set forth in the addendum. The
- 22 court adopts those and adopts the factual findings in the
- 23 presentence report.
- With regard to Ms. Lum Davis's offense to which she pled
- 25 guilty, there is no applicable guidelines;

- 1 There is a recommendation by probation that the
- 2 supervised release guideline provisions are 1 to 3 years;
- 3 There's no guideline for the fine;
- And of course there's a mandatory \$100 assessment for the
- 5 offense.
- 6 So these are the factors the court sees in aggravation.
- 7 First, turning to the nature and circumstances of the offense,
- 8 for a significant period of time, at least between March 2017
- 9 and January 2018, you agreed to act as an agent for a foreign
- 10 national in exchange for millions of dollars.
- 11 You agreed to use your political connections to lobby the
- 12 administration of the president of the United States and the
- 13 Department of Justice to drop investigations and various
- 14 aspects for foreign nationals. This involved a lot of money.
- 15 A lot of financial gain on your part alone was \$10 million for
- 16 your efforts to use your influence to subvert justice.
- 17 This involved serious crimes for profit. The use of
- 18 influence harms our community's sense of fairness and access to
- 19 justice and is an affront to law-abiding citizens.
- 20 Turning to your personal characteristics, you've shown no
- 21 remorse or taken responsibility in this case. After pleading
- 22 guilty and giving testimony under oath admitting to the facts
- 23 underlying your offense, you have now tried to disavow any
- 24 responsibility and tried to blame your change of plea on your
- 25 former counsel in a misguided attempt to rewrite history.

- On the other hand, there are factors in mitigation. You
- 2 have no prior criminal history. You have no history of
- 3 violence, no history of criminal -- drug addiction or abuse,
- 4 and no history of mental illness. So these indicate that
- 5 they're showing factors against recidivism.
- In addition, you're highly educated; you have a college
- 7 degree. You have strong ties to the community. You have
- 8 family support from your husband and daughter, your parents and
- 9 extended family.
- You've done fine on pretrial release. You've been
- 11 compliant with all of your conditions. You've done community
- 12 service and have connections with many high-ranking members of
- 13 our community as evidenced by your letters in support.
- 14 And although the government has not filed a motion on
- 15 your behalf, the court does take notice that you gave grand
- 16 jury testimony under oath that no doubt assisted the government
- 17 in some aspect and resulted in the indictment of at least one
- 18 individual. So those are the factors the court sees in
- 19 mitigation.
- 20 So now I'll turn to the government for their position on
- 21 sentencing, and in particular because there are no guidelines,
- 22 I know you folks are asking for a sentence of 30 months of
- 23 incarceration to be followed by supervised release. I'd be
- 24 interested in particularly addressing the nature and
- 25 circumstances of the offense.

- 1 MR. KELLER: Yes, Your Honor. Court's indulgence
- 2 for just a moment while I get set up.
- 3 THE COURT: Yes.
- 4 MR. KELLER: Ms. Elkington, are you able to turn on
- 5 the monitors to display this?
- 6 So, Your Honor, I do want to start with the nature and
- 7 circumstances of the offense. There's been very different
- 8 presentations of the defendant's role and of the seriousness of
- 9 this offense overall from the parties in this case. And I
- 10 think rather than -- or in addition to some limited additional
- 11 advocacy here, it would be helpful for the Court to see some of
- 12 the key evidence that highlights the offense as a whole and
- 13 also the defendant's role in the offense.
- 14 These are all exhibits that have been attached to the
- 15 government's sentencing memo and some excerpts from some of the
- 16 defendant's filings as well.
- 17 So as the Court noted, this offense started in earnest in
- 18 March of 2017 between the defendant and Elliott Broidy and Pras
- 19 Michel where they decided to try and sell their services to a
- 20 foreign national, Low Taek Jho, who was under investigation for
- 21 a multi-billion dollar kleptocracy embezzlement scheme from the
- 22 Government of Malaysia. And because he had stolen or was
- 23 alleged to have stolen so much money, he had assets all over
- 24 the world, including in the United States.
- 25 And so the Department of Justice was investigating him

- 1 and was -- had initiated forfeiture actions to seize assets
- 2 that they believed had been purchased with funds from -- from
- 3 the Government of Malaysia that had been embezzled by Mr. Low.
- 4 And Mr. Low was seeking someone with influence in the new
- 5 administration with President Trump to try and resolve the case
- 6 favorably, hopefully make the case go away, or at least allow
- 7 him access to all of his funds in the United States, his
- 8 assets, and to be able to travel freely back and forth to the
- 9 United States.
- 10 So grand jury Exhibit 2 from the Government's Sentencing
- 11 Memo, a subexhibit to Exhibit 1, this just shows from the very
- 12 beginning, March 3rd, Ms. Lum Davis is corresponding with Erica
- 13 Hilliard who is an assistant for Mr. Broidy, and the critical
- 14 line here is the last line, "Lastly do you have any photos of
- 15 Elliott with the president?"
- So from the earliest days, it's clear that the defendant
- 17 understood that the whole purpose of this arrangement was to
- 18 emphasize Mr. Broidy's access and influence and relationship
- 19 with the president.
- 20 She gets some photos, Ms. Lum Davis. The defendant asks
- 21 for additional photos, something more casual. This isn't a
- 22 very good version of it, but gets a photo back of Mr. Broidy
- 23 and President Trump there to send to Mr. Low to try and
- 24 convince him that Mr. Broidy was someone that could actually
- 25 assist him in his effort to have the embezzlement

- 1 investigations dropped.
- 2 At around the same time Ms. Lum Davis is communicating
- 3 with Pras Michel who had access to Mr. Low, and she is again
- 4 touting Mr. Broidy and his access and value to the
- 5 administration. So she's texting Mr. Michel at the top line,
- 6 "Elliott Broidy, he raised the most money of any person for
- 7 Trump and was the Finance Chair for President George W. Bush."
- 8 So there's a meeting between Ms. Lum Davis and Mr. Michel
- 9 and Mr. Broidy. They start finalizing what their pitch is
- 10 going to be to Mr. Low, selling, again, Mr. Broidy's access and
- 11 influence with the administration.
- 12 And this looks misleading -- the date at the top is
- 13 just -- it's a different formulation. It's actually
- 14 March 12th, not December 3rd, 2017. You'll see in the
- 15 attachments that they're March. But so Mr. Broidy's wife,
- 16 Robin Rosenzweig, who is a lawyer -- Mr. Broidy's not a
- 17 lawyer -- provides these documents to Ms. Lum Davis for her
- 18 review. It's a draft contract between Ms. Rosenzweig's law
- 19 office Colfax and Jho Low, and then a consulting agreement
- 20 between Colfax and Ms. Lum Davis.
- 21 And the -- the agreement essentially calls for legal
- 22 services, but as the Court is aware of and as you'll see in
- 23 these exhibits, this was never about legal services.
- 24 Mr. Broidy was not a lawyer. Ms. Rosenzweig wasn't in the
- 25 initial meetings with Mr. Michel and Ms. Lum Davis and was --

- 1 Rosenzweig didn't travel to Bangkok, she didn't travel to Hong
- 2 Kong, she was not involved in this effort at all. It was all
- 3 about Mr. Broidy.
- 4 Ms. Lum Davis understood it, that's why she wanted the
- 5 photos of Mr. Broidy with the president, and yet they used
- 6 from, again, the very beginning pretext to try and legitimize
- 7 what they were doing, to try to conceal the true purpose of
- 8 what they were doing, and to try to cloak themselves in the
- 9 protections of the attorney-client privilege.
- This is, as you said, an offense that involved a lot of
- 11 money. The initial draft contract called for a retainer of
- 12 \$8 million and a potential success fee of \$75 million.
- 13 This is the Consulting Services Agreement, and at the
- 14 bottom just on the point of trying to use a illegitimate
- 15 attorney-client relationship, the Consulting Services Agreement
- 16 also attempts to cloak the work in the attorney-client
- 17 privilege. And Ms. Lum Davis was -- had negotiated a
- 18 significant fee for her efforts in this -- in this scheme,
- 19 25 percent of the retainer fee and 25 percent of that
- 20 \$75 million success fee.
- 21 So the best evidence that the government has in this case
- 22 as to what was -- what was happening, outside of the testimony
- 23 from different cooperating witnesses, is an extensive text
- 24 message chain that spans the entire offense between Ms. Lum
- 25 Davis, the defendant, and Mr. Broidy, and these are some

- 1 excerpts from that text message chain that I think demonstrates
- 2 how active Ms. Lum Davis's role was in this. She was not just
- 3 a passive facilitator, but that she was often driving the
- 4 influence campaign, the potentially most harmful aspects of
- 5 this influence campaign.
- 6 So this again is early March. Ms. Lum Davis is asking
- 7 for photos, asking for the names of the potentially incoming
- 8 U.S. Attorney who had jurisdiction over the 1MDB investigation
- 9 into Jho Low Nathan Hackman, again asking for photos, trying to
- 10 set up a meeting between Mr. Broidy and Mr. Michel. "Pras" is
- 11 the reference there, prior to his travel that weekend to Asia,
- 12 so they knew that Mr. Michel was going over to meet with
- 13 Mr. Low to kind of sell this arrangement to Mr. Low.
- Mr. Broidy, mid March, "Anything new on Ong?" which is an
- 15 unrelated individual or Pras's associate. You'll notice in
- 16 these text messages the defendant and Mr. Broidy consciously
- 17 avoid ever mentioning Jho Low by name because, again, evidence
- 18 of a consciousness of guilt; they know that they should not be
- 19 working on behalf of this foreign fugitive and they don't want
- 20 to be readily associated with him, and so you'll see that
- 21 there's never a reference to Mr. Low by name.
- 22 So Pras's associate, "Pras is meeting in person tomorrow
- 23 with the promoter, " again Low.
- 24 Ms. Lum Davis sending an article to Mr. Broidy giving him
- 25 an updates about the status of the forfeiture lawsuits.

- 1 This is Ms. Lum Davis in April now telling Mr. Broidy,
- 2 "It looks good with Pras. Call me."
- 3 Mr. Broidy asking for updates, "Should I work on
- 4 reservations?" And at this point the co-conspirators are on
- 5 the verge of traveling to Bangkok to meet with Low in person to
- 6 explain to him what Mr. Broidy can do with his influence to the
- 7 president and to potentially attorney general to try and make
- 8 this embezzlement case, one of the largest kleptocracy cases
- 9 ever charged in the history of the Department, to make it go
- 10 away.
- 11 Again reference to "the principal" there by Mr. Broidy,
- 12 no reference to Jho Low. Or, that is a reference to Jho Low,
- 13 but not by name of course.
- 14 And so the co-conspirators do go to Bangkok, they meet
- 15 with Low this is early May. Basically May 2nd to May 6th they
- 16 have their meeting with Mr. Low. They reach an agreement and
- 17 understanding that he will pay Mr. Broidy in order to use his
- 18 influence to try and get the administration to drop the 1MDB
- 19 investigation and negotiate the fees in the millions of
- 20 dollars. So when they return, Ms. Lum Davis is telling
- 21 Mr. Broidy, "The wires are in to your wife's law firm from
- 22 Pras," and that there was an additional \$702,000 cashier check
- 23 deposited.
- 24 And then you also notice that for the first time after
- 25 this trip to meet with Mr. Low in Bangkok, Mr. Lum Davis and

- 1 Mr. Broidy start referencing encrypted apps. So Wickr is an
- 2 app that makes it virtually impossible for law enforcement to
- 3 access the contents of the communications. It also has a
- 4 feature where your messages can disappear. And so they start
- 5 not only not mentioning Jho Low by name, but using these
- 6 encrypted apps so that, again, they can disguise kind of the
- 7 evidence of their criminal activity.
- 8 This is a back and forth about incoming wires that came
- 9 in, so they got roughly \$3 million around May 5th. They got
- 10 another 3 million May 12th and then another 3 million May 25th.
- 11 And Ms. Lum Davis is updating Mr. Broidy on the status of the
- 12 payments. She says, "Baby steps, at least moving forward now."
- 13 Mr. Broidy says, "Hammer them for the next two wires."
- 14 This scheme was always about money. It wasn't about
- 15 patriotism, it wasn't about trying to return hostages. It was
- 16 always about money.
- 17 Shortly after that trip to Bangkok, the co-conspirators
- 18 returned to Hong Kong to meet with Mr. Low again, and this time
- 19 not only with Mr. Low, but with the Vice Minister for Public
- 20 Security for the People's Republic of China Sun Lijun. So they
- 21 travel around May 18th to Hong Kong, they are whisked into
- 22 China to Shenzhen to a hotel.
- They meet with Mr. Low briefly and then meet with Sun
- 24 Lijun and his entourage, and Mr. Lijun tells him that China
- 25 wants a prominent critic of the Chinese government returned to

- 1 China, someone who is seeking safe haven as a -- as a -- as a
- 2 politically persecuted person. This individual, Guo Wengui,
- 3 China wants him back. They want to be able to prosecute him
- 4 and they are concerned, the government's concerned, because
- 5 he's been such an outspoken critic of the government.
- 6 They meet with Mr. Lijun. Mr. Broidy again sells his
- 7 services to Mr. Lijun: how he can influence the
- 8 administration, how he can help arrange for the removal of this
- 9 Chinese dissident.
- 10 And they return to the United States on May 20th. You
- 11 see the second to last message there Mr. Broidy says, "I'll try
- 12 to make this a big week for us with Jeff," referencing Jeff
- 13 Sessions, the Attorney General at the time, and then, of
- 14 course, "check Wickr."
- 15 Ten days later, ten days after the co-conspirators
- 16 return, Mr. Lijun, the Vice Minister for the People's Republic
- 17 of China, travels to the United States to try and meet with
- 18 high-level U.S. officials to get them to agree to send this
- 19 Chinese dissident back to China. Ms. Lum Davis and Mr. Broidy
- 20 were actively involved in trying to set up these meetings.
- 21 So you see here Ms. Lum Davis says, "Checked Wickr. All
- 22 clear now for meetings."
- 23 Mr. Broidy says, "Yes. All set."
- Ms. Lum Davis, who is in contact with the Vice Minister
- of China at this point, "He got his meetings reinstated."

- 1 Mr. Broidy says, "I'm in D.C."
- 2 Ms. Lum Davis again at the bottom referencing Wickr and
- 3 the fact that the messages disappear after an hour.
- 4 Ms. Lum Davis asking about a meeting with at that time
- 5 Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly, a meeting between
- 6 Vice Minister Lijun and John Kelly, "In principal is the
- 7 meeting with Kelly okay? It's just a schedule issue?"
- 8 Mr. Broidy says, "Just a schedule issue."
- 9 And then Mr. Broidy says down below, "Please pass along
- 10 my good wishes to the vice minister, "because Ms. Lum Davis is
- 11 the one who's in contact with the vice minister directly, "Wait
- 12 a little while longer."
- Ms. Lum Davis, "Yes, I'm telling him that."
- And then Mr. Broidy continues, "Tell him that I'm telling
- 15 the White House and Sessions what happened."
- 16 There's some back and forth about a scheduling order
- 17 conflict and the fact that Mr. Kelly is not going -- Secretary
- 18 Kelly is not going to be able to meet with the Vice Minister.
- 19 Ms. Lum Davis says, "Just spoke with the Vice
- 20 Minister" -- the third message from the bottom -- "He sounded
- 21 like he was crying. It's really sad."
- Mr. Broidy says, "Terrible. What a mess. Bottom line
- 23 it's not our fault. Normally their ambassador would handle."
- 24 But this wasn't regular orders. This wasn't normal operations.
- 25 That's the whole point. It was a backchannel follow-up effort

- 1 being conducted by Mr. Broidy and Ms. Lum Davis along with
- 2 others, including Mr. Michel.
- 3 So after the failure to secure meetings for the vice
- 4 minister, Ms. Lum Davis pivots to the other piece that they're
- 5 working on which is the 1MDB investigation, the embezzlement
- 6 charges against Low, and trying to get that dropped, and so she
- 7 asks, "Any word on a date?" And that's a date for a meeting
- 8 that they were trying to get between then-President Trump and
- 9 then-prime minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak.
- 10 And so Ms. Lum Davis pivots from the meeting with Sun
- 11 Lijun regarding the deportation of this individual Guo Wengui,
- 12 "Let's move back to 1MDB and trying to get that dropped and
- 13 trying to get a meeting set up between the president of the
- 14 United States and the prime minister for Malaysia. Any word on
- 15 a date. Let's focus on the other thing. Distract and redirect
- 16 our client." Again, this is a business. This is trying to
- 17 show progress so that they can get more money out of these
- 18 foreign principals.
- 19 Again, Ms. Lum Davis relaying to Mr. Broidy what Jho Low
- 20 is saying, "J keeps calling for news."
- "I will work on J and Asian country," Jho Low and
- 22 Malaysia."
- Ms. Lum Davis is sending Mr. Broidy an article on Guo
- 24 Wengui, and Mr. Broidy saying, "It's getting nasty."
- 25 Ms. Lum Davis sending another article about the 1MDB

- 1 scandal and the embezzlement from 1MDB and telling Mr. Broidy,
- 2 "Call me so we can craft a message," again demonstrating that
- 3 she's playing an active role in the strategies that they're
- 4 employing and in how they are going to approach this influence
- 5 effort.
- 6 Ms. Lum Davis again relaying messages, "He'd like to
- 7 speak with you this evening, principal," no reference by name,
- 8 but a reference to Jho Low.
- 9 Following up with Mr. Broidy, "E, any news? Check Wickr,
- 10 please. Are we able to check in with him? Is rejection or
- 11 acceptance letter already generated?" They're talking about
- 12 acceptance or rejection of a visa renewal that Mr. Guo Wenqui
- 13 was seeking, and again, China didn't want his visa to be
- 14 renewed because they wanted him kicked out of the country.
- Ms. Lum Davis now saying, "You are the man. They're
- 16 going to give you the President's Medal of Freedom Award after
- 17 what you accomplished for this country." This is in reference
- 18 to this potential prisoner exchange between China and the
- 19 U.S. -- U.S. sending Guo -- or not prisoner exchange, but
- 20 hostage exchange -- U.S. sending Guo back to China, China
- 21 sending U.S. hostages back to the U.S.
- 22 And then Ms. Lum Davis says just two lines down, "And
- 23 date for M," date for Malaysia. "Don't leave that dude until
- 24 we do it," that dude being Reince Priebus who was then the
- 25 chief of staff for the president of the United States.

- Mr. Broidy responding, "Heard from Steve," that's Steve 1 2 Wynn who had also close connections and relationship to the 3 President. "He reiterated to POTUS the importance of this Guo issue," trying to get Guo sent back to China, again all being 4 5 directed by the Vice Minister of Public Security for China. 6 Separately, "RP" -- that's Reince Priebus -- texting, "He got 7 tied up but is also on top of it." 8 So these are contacts with the president himself and his 9 chief of staff, the highest levels of our government that these 10 individuals were able to accomplish not because they were 11 informed or because they had an official position or that they 12 were doing what they thought was best for the country, but 13 because they were being paid hundreds of millions of dollars ultimately to serve a foreign agenda that was not in the best 14 interest of our foreign policy or our national security. 15 16 Ms. Lum Davis again actively pushing Mr. Broidy, "Can we 17 get proof today about revoke?" -- the revocation of Mr. Guo's 18 visa from Reince Priebus -- "Can we get proof today about 19 revoke?" telling Mr. Broidy on behalf of China that there's a 20 call scheduled between president of China, Xi Jinping, and 21 Trump and that she can ask and confirm about the package, the 22 package being Guo Wengui who China wanted sent back. "He can 23 even say he heard it from Steve Wynn," the president can even
- of a call between the president of the United States and Xi

24

say he heard it from Steve Wynn, trying to script the details

- 1 Jinping. Just additional pressure, additional references to
- 2 high-level officials that Mr. Broidy was trying to influence up
- 3 to the National Security Council, McMaster -- was H.R.
- 4 McMaster who was the National Security Advisor at the time.
- 5 Ms. Lum Davis sending another article about the Prime
- 6 Minister Najib Razak who is facing re-election, "Let's harass
- 7 this dude again. It's 3 P.M., "talking about Najib Razak and
- 8 the president.
- 9 "I think we need to make a move." This is the defendant
- 10 again to Mr. Broidy. "Date and otherwise we're getting killed.
- 11 Please call because we need to strategize. I'm getting
- 12 inundated."
- 13 The messages continue. This is another reference to the
- 14 White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, "I'd like him to
- 15 give us the date now, and ask him for an update on the other
- 16 thing. We look impotent. We really need this date. It's been
- 17 crazy for me all day with this. He's panicking. Just ask him.
- 18 This F head needs to make it happen, " a reference to Reince
- 19 Priebus. "This date is mandatory. Today we're getting
- 20 creamed."
- 21 Mr. Broidy says, "Calling Reince Priebus now. Call
- 22 everyone so they know you're raging mad. Call Madeleine too.
- 23 We need this today, " Madeleine Winetraub[sic], the personal
- 24 assistant to President Trump.
- 25 Additional references to Steve Wynn, the date for the

- 1 meeting, additional kind of examples of Ms. Lum Davis driving
- 2 this activity: "Are you able to speak?"
- 3 "Do you have any movement on the date?"
- 4 "You're leaving us hanging here, it's not right."
- 5 "The guy didn't get to POTUS. Steve Wynn didn't get to
- 6 POTUS."
- 7 "Really need to confirm it was officially transmitted
- 8 back to Jho Low, the Chinese, regarding the meeting for the
- 9 Malaysians. At this point he says no."
- 10 And then finally the meeting is actually set up so they
- 11 get a meeting for September 12th between President Trump and
- 12 the prime minister for Malaysia, Najib Razak. They were told
- 13 September 12th was the meeting. Ms. Lum Davis said, "That's
- 14 the day U.N. General Assembly starts. No golf?" because they
- 15 were also trying to set up an informal meeting, a golf game
- 16 between the leaders.
- 17 And then the day before the meeting, the prime minister
- 18 for Malaysia, Najib Razak, was in D.C. and Mr. Broidy and
- 19 Ms. Lum Davis met with him to prep him for his meeting with the
- 20 president. And Ms. Lum Davis helped draft or edit a letter to
- 21 be sent to the president from Mr. Broidy to set the table for
- 22 the meeting with Najib Razak.
- 23 So that shows both that this was not some hypothetical
- 24 agreement without any teeth to it, this was not just bluster,
- 25 but this was the co-conspirators actively strategizing and

- 1 taking affirmative steps to try and actually influence the
- 2 president of the United States directly, his attorney general,
- 3 his national security council, his chief of staff, to bring
- 4 about results that while potentially didn't endanger American
- 5 lives, were -- would have been a travesty for our justice
- 6 system, both for the abandonment of this investigation into one
- 7 of the largest foreign embezzlement kleptocracy schemes ever
- 8 charged and sending a Chinese national back to China without
- 9 due process of law, without going through extradition, so that
- 10 he can be persecuted in China because of his critical views of
- 11 the Chinese government.
- 12 This demonstrates the seriousness of the offense. It
- 13 also demonstrates that the defendant did not play some backseat
- 14 passive role where she was just there as a facilitator. She
- 15 was the one driving a lot of this activity and driving the
- 16 strategy and the means by which this influence effort would be
- 17 carried out. And she wanted to be able to show results because
- 18 she wanted to be able to continue to obtain money from these
- 19 foreign sources.
- In the defendant's sentencing papers they have emphasized
- 21 the defendant's cooperation and the Court referenced her
- 22 cooperation today and noted that the government had not made a
- 23 motion. And the government hasn't made a formal motion in part
- 24 because of what I'll talk about here in just a second, but also
- 25 because, as the Court noted, there are no guidelines in this

- 1 case and so a motion under Section 5K1.1 of the quidelines
- 2 wouldn't make sense because there is no applicable guideline.
- 3 But the government has taken into account the fact that
- 4 Ms. Lum Davis did plead initially and did at least appear to
- 5 cooperate with the government's investigation, and that has
- 6 influenced the government's sentencing recommendation.
- 7 But on the -- on the issue of cooperation, in her plea
- 8 agreement the defendant agrees -- this is at paragraph 8a(5) of
- 9 her plea agreement -- that Person B -- and that's a reference
- 10 to Mr. Broidy -- falsely assured her that their work would
- 11 consist of legal representation. She -- "It became clear to
- 12 the defendant that the lobbying efforts did not constitute
- 13 legal representation and required registration and disclosure
- 14 under FARA. The defendant deliberately and consciously avoided
- 15 revisiting FARA and willfully failing to register under FARA by
- 16 continuing to work on behalf of Foreign National A and PRC
- 17 Minister A." She admitted that under oath as part of her plea
- 18 agreement in this case.
- 19 And then in grand jury, the defendant addressed it again
- 20 in her testimony under oath. The question that she was asked,
- 21 "Did you have a concern that based on those contacts he,
- 22 Mr. Broidy, needed to register under FARA and publicly disclose
- 23 that he was working on behalf of Jho Low?"
- And she says, "It was more that he was now in contact
- 25 with government officials trying to get this date for the prime

- 1 minister to get together with Trump, so I did ask him about it.
- 2 I said, 'Do you think that you should register?'"
- 3 "What did he say?"
- "He said, 'No, because Jho Low's a client,'" and she
- 5 outlines this conversation. She says they had multiple
- 6 conversations about FARA in 2017 while their conduct was
- 7 ongoing. She says that Mr. Broidy was emphatic that he didn't
- 8 need to register, and if he did, then he would.
- 9 It rose to the level of an argument or a heated
- 10 discussion because she said she told him, "Don't you think you
- 11 should register, that you need to register?"
- 12 And she said that he said, "No. You got a legal opinion
- 13 on it."
- 14 Then she says that she -- she was asked, "Did you mention
- 15 this to Mr. Michel?"
- And she says, "Just in terms of telling him the
- 17 conversation that Elliott felt he did not need to register."
- 18 She was asked, "But you were concerned that maybe he
- 19 should register?"
- 20 She says, "Right."
- "Did Mr. Michel have any response?"
- "I don't believe that Mr. Michel said anything about it.
- 23 I think it was something I made a comment on in one of our many
- 24 conversations."
- So this is testimony in grand jury in on ongoing

- 1 investigation of a co-conspirator, Mr. Michel, on this issue.
- 2 In her -- in her pleadings in this case in direct contradiction
- 3 of her factual basis and her plea agreement, Ms. Lum Davis has
- 4 submitted that she did not believe that either she or
- 5 Mr. Broidy were required to register under FARA. She formed
- 6 this understanding based upon her discussions with Mr. Michel,
- 7 who assured her that his partner, then-DOJ Attorney George
- 8 Higginbotham, was ensuring legal compliance for their efforts,
- 9 as well as with Mr. Broidy who told her that he consulted with
- 10 legal counsel who confirmed that he was not required to
- 11 register under FARA.
- 12 She said nothing about Mr. Michel assuring her that she
- 13 didn't need to register in grand jury. She said -- in fact,
- 14 she said Mr. Michel said nothing about FARA when she raised it,
- 15 and her testimony was in contemplation of a prosecution that is
- 16 now pending against Mr. Michel.
- 17 She is now after not disclosing potentially exculpatory
- 18 information, if this is true, as to Mr. Michel in grand jury,
- 19 then in a self-serving effort to get out of her plea she has
- 20 generated potentially exculpatory information for Mr. Michel
- 21 and she's asking this Court to give her credit for cooperation
- 22 when she either lied under oath in this courtroom as a part of
- 23 her plea or in grand jury, or she lied in these submissions in
- 24 an effort to get out of her plea.
- There are additional examples, but I think the

- 1 Court -- the Court understands the point on cooperation. She
- 2 did tell the government some things that the government has
- 3 been able to corroborate and confirm and the government
- 4 believes she was truthful as to some facts. But cooperating
- 5 partway in a federal investigation where federal criminal
- 6 charges and people's liberty is at stake is not cooperation,
- 7 and so any credit that she should get for cooperation should be
- 8 minimal here.
- 9 As to the defendant's contrition or acceptance of
- 10 responsibility, as the Court noted, she has shown none, and I
- 11 think that's illustrated by her efforts to distort and
- 12 manipulate these proceedings to try and either get her out of
- 13 her plea agreement to avoid responsibility and the consequences
- 14 of her actions, or to try and distract the Court from her
- 15 conduct and to gain the Court's sympathy in mitigation of her
- 16 conduct.
- 17 But this effort, this entire past year of litigation on
- 18 frivolous issues to delay her sentencing, to potentially try to
- 19 get out of her sentencing, the denial, recantation of factual
- 20 basis, these things don't mitigate her offense, they aggravate
- 21 her offense. They aggravate the fact that she -- that
- 22 punishment must be sufficient to address her lack of contrition
- 23 and acceptance of responsibility.
- 24 Your Honor, we're fortunate in this country that there
- 25 aren't very many examples of efforts to advocate on behalf of

- 1 foreign governments or foreign principals at the highest levels
- 2 of our government in exchange for millions of dollars. We
- 3 don't have many examples to point to and I think we should all
- 4 be grateful for that. I think the reason why there aren't many
- 5 examples to point to -- although we have highlighted some in
- 6 our sentencing papers, including the prosecution of
- 7 Mr. Manafort and the prosecution of Tongsun Park, and the
- 8 prosecution of Imaad Zuberi, all of whom were initially given
- 9 maximum sentences under the FARA statute of 60 months for their
- 10 conduct, conduct which is largely analogous in many ways to
- 11 Ms. Lum Davis and her co-conspirators' conduct in this case --
- 12 but there are relatively few examples because very few people
- 13 have the connections that the defendant and her co-conspirators
- 14 had in this case: direct access and connections and influence
- 15 with the president of the United States? with the attorney
- 16 general? with the White House chief of staff? Very few people
- 17 have that kind of access and thankfully even fewer people who
- 18 do have that access are willing to sell it to the highest
- 19 foreign bidder.
- The potential harm to our country of having these secret
- 21 foreign-quided efforts to shape our foreign policy and
- 22 decisions in all our prosecutions in the Department of Justice
- 23 cases and decisions about whether people seeking asylum in
- 24 United States should be sent, without judicial process, back to
- 25 another country, these are -- these are efforts that strike at

- 1 the very core of our democracy. They undermine the most
- 2 important principles that we stand for which is due process of
- 3 law, even-handed administration of justice. And the defendant
- 4 was willing to subvert those for her own profit and she
- 5 profited substantially, along with her co-conspirators.
- This conduct needs to be deterred. People are watching
- 7 what's happening in this case all over the country, all over
- 8 the world, seeing how seriously this conduct is going to be
- 9 treated, and there are others who are still pending prosecution
- 10 in this case who also are watching.
- 11 And so the Court should consider the need to avoid
- 12 unwarranted sentencing disparities with the few examples that
- 13 we do have that are largely analogous, and also must consider
- 14 the importance of the deterrent effect in -- to some -- in some
- 15 respect as to the defendant, but more importantly, as to the
- 16 community, the global community as a whole for what our justice
- 17 system's reaction is to this kind of conduct.
- The government recommends a sentence of 24 to 30 months
- 19 as sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to address this
- 20 conduct. And again, that recommendation is based on, in part,
- 21 as a reflection of Ms. Lum Davis's quilty plea and the initial
- 22 cooperation in this case.
- 23 Thank you, Your Honor.
- 24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.
- 25 Mr. Minkin, will you be arguing?

- 1 MR. MINKIN: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.
- What we have here is a situation that is unique in and of
- 3 itself, aiding and abetting a FARA violation.
- 4 Good afternoon, Judge Kobayashi. Let me start, Your
- 5 Honor, with what cannot be disputed. Nickie's days begin and
- 6 end with her daughter. She is a mother, she is a wife, she is
- 7 a daughter, she is a friend. This situation that she finds
- 8 herself in has deeply affected everyone around her and it will
- 9 affect them for years to come.
- THE COURT: I agree, Mr. Minkin. I mean, every
- 11 person that I sentence, I understand I sentence not only them
- 12 to prison, but their families. Whether it's some poor kid from
- 13 Kalihi who's been caught up in a drug conspiracy, drug
- 14 trafficking, or your client who's had the benefit of tremendous
- 15 education, community support, family support, you know, when
- 16 they go to prison, their whole family goes to prison.
- 17 MR. MINKIN: No --
- THE COURT: But there's not anything particularly
- 19 unique about that, though. I mean, my sympathy to the family
- 20 and her daughter in particular, but that happens in every case
- 21 and the court's very much aware of that.
- MR. MINKIN: I know. And what we look at is that
- 23 we've entered into an agreement. We stipulated to the
- 24 forfeiture of \$3 million-plus. We've agreed to a payment plan
- 25 with the government as to how that will get paid based upon

- 1 what this Court does here today, and that's important because
- 2 that money will basically be taken out of the pocket of Ms. Lum
- 3 Davis and go back to the government, and that amount is a
- 4 little more than 3 million.
- 5 The government talks about 10 million on the one hand,
- 6 but the forfeiture only deals with 3 million, and that, I
- 7 think, is important.
- I think also what we have is a situation where we have
- 9 the individual, Mr. Broidy, who has all of these contacts.
- 10 Mr. Broidy was pardoned. Mr. Manafort was pardoned. We have
- 11 an individual here who basically had an agreement with the
- 12 government, and at page 33 of that Memorandum of Plea,
- 13 Section 13a(2), Ms. Lum Davis had an absolute right to try to
- 14 challenge her plea based on a claim of ineffective assistance
- 15 of counsel. This is a document that was not drafted by Ms. Lum
- 16 Davis. This was a document drafted by the government in
- 17 anticipation of what, Your Honor? In anticipation of what?
- 18 That's the question.
- 19 THE COURT: Well, it's standard language that's in
- 20 every Memorandum of Plea Agreement that I've ever been given.
- 21 So I don't think it has any --
- MR. MINKIN: No, I understand that, but --
- 23 THE COURT: -- particular significance in your case.
- 24 I'm not holding against her that she filed a motion
- 25 to -- about her attorney. That's certainly not going to be a

- 1 basis I'm going to look at in terms of aggravation or
- 2 mitigation. I mean, to the extent that she has not shown any
- 3 remorse or any responsibility for her conviction, yes, with
- 4 regard to that, but not that she filed a motion with regard to
- 5 her attorney.
- 6 MR. MINKIN: I would disagree with Your Honor,
- 7 respectfully, about remorse because we signed a payment plan,
- 8 we signed a stipulation for forfeiture. Those are significant
- 9 factors to comply with the plea agreement.
- 10 THE COURT: Right, but that's not a sign of remorse.
- 11 MR. MINKIN: The payment plan, there was no need to
- 12 set up a payment plan, Your Honor.
- 13 THE COURT: Well, that's inures to her benefit. I
- 14 mean, the government has the right -- she agreed in this plea
- 15 agreement to the forfeiture.
- MR. MINKIN: I know. I agree.
- 17 THE COURT: The government didn't have to take it on
- 18 a payment plan.
- MR. MINKIN: But she's making the effort to pay back
- 20 a certain amount of money each year that literally will save --
- 21 THE COURT: That she illegally benefitted from and
- 22 obtained as a result of her offense.
- MR. MINKIN: As an intermediary with these other
- 24 individuals, and that's something -- and I have a chart and I
- 25 have a handout, if it will assist -- may I approach, Your

- 1 Honor?
- THE COURT: You may -- well, I mean, what do you
- 3 want to do?
- 4 MR. MINKIN: I want to put this up and I've given
- 5 copies to the U.S. attorneys -- Assistant U.S. attorneys.
- THE COURT: Where do you want to put it up?
- 7 MR. MINKIN: (Pointing.)
- 8 THE COURT: Oh, on the easel, okay.
- 9 MR. MINKIN: On the tripod, please. And give me one
- 10 second, please.
- 11 And may I hand this to the clerk? This is a smaller one
- 12 for --
- 13 THE COURT: You just have to be by a microphone.
- 14 You have to be by a microphone if you're going to speak.
- Okay. All right. Thank you.
- MR. MINKIN: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 17 What I've done is I've put up a chart, and if you're
- 18 unable to see it, I've handed out to both yourself, the
- 19 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, a chart that basically outlines our
- 20 position that the principals in this case were Elliott Broidy,
- 21 Steve Wynn, Pras Michel, and Jho Low. Ms. Nickie Mali Lum
- 22 Davis was not a principal. She's charged with aiding and
- 23 abetting. She was an intermediary.
- And what happens with Elliott Broidy, his actions? He
- 25 spoke with President Trump about Jho Low's case. He attempted

- 1 to arrange meetings with top administration officials for the
- 2 prime minister of Malaysia as well as a Chinese government
- 3 official. He convinced Steve Wynn to assist in his lobbying
- 4 efforts.
- 5 What is Mr. Broidy's background or history? Felony
- 6 conviction for bribery that was later lowered to a misdemeanor
- 7 for cooperation. He is also the individual that utilized
- 8 Michael Cohen to pay off a pregnant Playboy Bunny that he
- 9 impregnated. Punishment: He pled to one count of felony
- 10 conspiracy to commit a FARA violation and then he was later
- 11 pardoned by the president. No fine, no sentencing.
- 12 Steve Wynn, he spoke with President Trump and the
- 13 national security advisor along with the team about returning a
- 14 Chinese fugitive to China after a conversation with -- excuse
- 15 me -- with a senior Chinese government official. History: He
- 16 had numerous business interests and permits pending for casino
- 17 operation in Macau controlled by the Chinese government worth
- 18 billions. He is currently facing multiple sexual harassment
- 19 lawsuits, forced to resign from his own company after those
- 20 allegations. Criminal case in those situations, pending, or
- 21 civil case. Punishment: Guarantee of no criminal prosecution
- 22 prior to speaking to DOJ, only enforced a civil FARA action,
- 23 and they did so, simply requesting him to back register for his
- 24 work. And then the case was dismissed when a court held that
- 25 the DOJ cannot ask a person to back register. No fine, no

- 1 criminal prosecution.
- Numerous -- 18 other numerous individuals, lawyers,
- 3 consultants, lobbyists, attorneys that were paid for their work
- 4 on behalf of Jho Low, paid by the same individual that paid
- 5 Ms. Davis, Michel, and Broidy. Punishment: All of them back
- 6 registered on October 31, 2018, including a woman who later
- 7 went to work for DOJ.
- Nickie Davis never spoke to a government -- U.S.
- 9 government official, never had Jho Low's phone number, only
- 10 relayed messages back and forth between Michel and Broidy, no
- 11 prior record, pled to a single count of aiding and abetting
- 12 Broidy's FARA violations, a new charge that had never been used
- 13 before, no sentencing federal guidelines. Government now
- 14 seeking 30 months -- or 24 to 30 months as well as failing to
- 15 acknowledge the government while doing so -- failing to
- 16 acknowledge the cooperation, and the cooperation got other
- 17 indictments, got other pleas, and other individuals brought
- 18 before the system that profited by this entire process.
- 19 What we have here is a situation where we have a woman
- 20 who basically should have thought twice about it, but got
- 21 caught up and got involved and collected money that is now
- 22 going back to the government.
- We have an individual that literally provided that
- 24 cooperation. That cooperation basically ended up getting
- 25 people -- like I indicated -- getting people indicted, getting

- 1 charged, and additional witnesses being brought forth. The
- 2 government now says that she's no use to them whatsoever, but
- 3 Mr. Broidy's still available, even though he's been pardoned,
- 4 because he has the ability to testify and verify those same
- 5 things that Ms. Davis told this Court.
- 6 We would ask that this Court literally go with the
- 7 presentence guideline or the recommendation of three months.
- 8 We recommend that that is appropriate given the circumstance.
- 9 We would like to self-surrender given her history of
- 10 appearing every which way possible and self-report to Dublin
- 11 facility.
- 12 If I may just have a moment, Your Honor.
- I apologize if I did not ask for probation. We believe
- 14 that this has impacted Ms. Lum Davis significantly. We believe
- 15 that probation would be appropriate with all of the usual
- 16 requirements for probation. However, if the Court's inclined,
- 17 do not sentence Ms. Lum Davis to 24 to 30 months. It is not
- 18 appropriate given the facts of this case, given the nature of
- 19 this case, and all of the other parties that were involved.
- Thank you, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- Ms. Lum Davis, do you wish to say anything on your
- 23 behalf? You do have the right. If you don't, it won't be held
- 24 against you, but certainly this is your time, if you wish to.
- THE DEFENDANT: Well, Your Honor, thank you for the

- 1 opportunity to present a letter to you, which I did before
- 2 sentencing, and I think that had all the things I wanted to
- 3 say.
- 4 If you would like me to respond to any of the numerous
- 5 text messages that Mr. Keller went through, because I think we
- 6 all know that text messages can be taken out of context, then I
- 7 welcome -- I am open to be able to answer all of your
- 8 questions.
- 9 I'm totally going off script here, but when I didn't do
- 10 that before, I got into a lot of trouble. So I'm just going to
- 11 answer any questions you have of me because, I mean, I never
- 12 had the government connections. I never spoke to anybody. But
- 13 when they went through these text messages, it sounded like
- 14 they were grouping me together with the efforts that Elliott
- 15 Broidy did, but I never spoke to any -- I was communicating,
- 16 "Hey, Pras is asking me did you get the meeting set up? What's
- 17 going on?"
- I was the middle person who knew Elliott Broidy and Pras,
- 19 so Pras was giving me pressure, I'm putting the pressure back
- 20 on Elliott Broidy 'cause he's the one who was very well
- 21 connected. As Mr. Keller eloquently said, he was, you know,
- 22 this big Republican donor; he said he could get in touch with
- 23 Trump, he could talk to all these people, so that was
- 24 definitely what he was banking on, you know.
- 25 And I know my attorneys are -- probably want to kill me,

- 1 but I felt like if you want to ask me, I'm here.
- THE COURT: Well, I'm just going to ask you where
- 3 your letter is 'cause I've never seen it.
- 4 THE DEFENDANT: Oh --
- 5 THE COURT: Yeah. I got Mr. McCorriston's letter.
- 6 I've got various letters in support, that's Exhibit B. But if
- 7 you did submit a letter I never received it which is why I
- 8 indicated you didn't have any indication of remorse.
- 9 Did the government ever receive a copy of it?
- 10 MR. KELLER: We did, Your Honor. I believe it was
- 11 attached as exhibit perhaps in the response to the government's
- 12 sentencing memorandum?
- MR. MCCORRISTON: Your Honor --
- 14 THE COURT: Yes.
- 15 MR. MCCORRISTON: -- the letter was attached to the
- 16 reply as Exhibit A.
- 17 THE COURT: I have Defendant's Response,
- 18 but -- okay. I see it at the end, yeah. Okay.
- 19 Well, I'm going to take a look at it now.
- I got to say if you're going to put your client's letter
- 21 to the Court, it's very curious to me that you give me a
- 22 billion people's letters and you don't give me hers until you
- 23 respond to the government's sentencing position.
- But, you know -- and I did read your response with regard
- 25 to all of that.

- 1 MR. MCCORRISTON: It was attached to the response,
- 2 Your Honor.
- 3 THE COURT: I know. But if you're going to submit a
- 4 letter on behalf of your client, that should be the first thing
- 5 that's filed, not the last.
- 6 MR. MCCORRISTON: Your Honor, it was referred to in
- 7 her response as well.
- 8 THE COURT: Right, I read the response.
- 9 And I have it, yeah.
- 10 THE COURTROOM MANAGER: Oh, you do?
- 11 THE COURT: Yeah. Okay. Which I did read it -- I
- 12 guess that's where I got my impression the lack of remorse and
- 13 responsibility. I don't see that letter taking responsibility.
- But at any rate, is there anything else that you want to
- 15 say on your behalf?
- 16 THE DEFENDANT: No. Thank you very much, Your
- 17 Honor.
- 18 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 19 All right. The court's going to state the sentence and
- 20 the reasons for the sentence, and then I'll ask each of the
- 21 attorneys if they have any legal objections before I impose the
- 22 sentence.
- 23 Please stand, Ms. Lum Davis.
- 24 Based on the mitigating and aggravating factors that the
- 25 court has previously stated, you are committed to the custody

- 1 of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 24 months;
- Supervised release of three years;
- 3 A fine of \$250,000;
- 4 Restitution's not applicable because the forfeiture;
- 5 Special assessment of \$100 for each count for a total of
- 6 \$100.
- 7 The conditions of your supervised release are as follows:
- 8 You must abide by the mandatory and standard conditions
- 9 of supervision, including the following conditions:
- 10 Since you do not have a recent history of substance abuse
- 11 and the offense is not drug related, the court waives the
- 12 mandatory drug testing condition.
- 13 You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed
- 14 by probation.
- You must report to the probation office in the federal
- 16 judicial district where you are authorized to reside within
- 17 72 hours of the time you are released, unless the probation
- 18 officer instructs you to report to a different probation office
- 19 or within a different time frame.
- 20 You must abide by the following Special Conditions:
- The fine of \$250,000 is due. Any unpaid balance must be
- 22 paid during the period of supervision in monthly installments
- of \$10,000 or 25 percent of your gross monthly income,
- 24 whichever is greater, commencing 30 days after the start of
- 25 supervision. The court may order this requirement to be

- 1 changed from time to time as your circumstances warrant, but no
- 2 court order shall be required for your voluntarily agreement to
- 3 pay more than the court-ordered amount. Interest is waived
- 4 while you are serving any term of imprisonment -- actually, I'm
- 5 not going to impose interest, so it's waived. And payments
- 6 must be made by payroll deduction when applicable.
- 7 You must notify the probation officer of any change in
- 8 your financial circumstances that affect your ability to pay.
- 9 Your financial circumstances must be reviewed by the probation
- 10 officer on at least an annual basis.
- 11 You must provide the probation officer access to any
- 12 requested financial information and authorize the release of
- 13 any financial information. The probation office may share
- 14 financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
- 15 You must apply all moneys received from any income tax
- 16 refunds, lottery winnings, inheritance, judgments, and any
- 17 anticipated or unexpected financial gains to the outstanding
- 18 court-ordered financial obligation at the discretion and
- 19 direction of the court.
- 20 You must not incur new credit card charges -- credit
- 21 charges, or open additional lines of credit, or apply for any
- 22 loans without prior approval of probation. You must not borrow
- 23 money or take personal loans from any individual without prior
- 24 approval of probation.
- You must maintain a single personal bank account,

- 1 separate and apart from your spouse, any family members or
- 2 others, into which all income, financial proceeds, and gains
- 3 must be deposited and from which all expenses must be paid.
- 4 You must provide the probation officer with a signed
- 5 release authorizing credit checks and accurate financial
- 6 statement with the support -- with supporting documentation as
- 7 to all sources and amounts of income, all your expenses, and
- 8 any business you own, in whole or in part.
- 9 You must provide the probation officer with access to any
- 10 and all business records, financial records, client lists, and
- 11 other records, pertaining to the operation of any business you
- 12 own, in whole or in part, as directed by probation.
- 13 If you are self-employed, you must employ a bookkeeper
- 14 and/or accountant to manage your business records as to income
- 15 and expenses and profits and losses on a regular basis at the
- 16 discretion and direction of probation.
- 17 You must disassociate yourself from and not have any
- 18 contact with Low Taek Jho, aka Jho Low, Pras Michel, Elliott
- 19 Broidy, Broidy's wife, RR, and George Higginbotham. Should
- 20 your family members work for any of these individuals or
- 21 companies owned in whole or in part by them, you must reside in
- 22 a residence separate and apart from those family members.
- You must cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service and
- 24 State of Hawaii Department of Taxation and arrange for the
- 25 payment of delinquent taxes, interest and penalties, and the

- 1 timely filing of tax returns and/or corrected amended tax
- 2 returns.
- Finally, you must submit your person, property, house,
- 4 residence, vehicle, papers, or office to a search conducted by
- 5 a United States Probation Officer. Failure to submit to a
- 6 search may be grounds for revocation of release. You must warn
- 7 any other occupants that the premises may be subject to
- 8 searches pursuant to this condition. The probation officer may
- 9 conduct a search under this condition only when reasonable
- 10 suspicion exists that you have violated a condition of
- 11 supervision and that the areas to be searched contains evidence
- 12 of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a
- 13 reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.
- 14 For the basis of the aggravating factors, the court
- 15 reviewed your personal characteristics, so forth, as it stated,
- 16 and in light of the mitigating factors, court found that
- 17 there's no quidelines. But in the court's mind, because of the
- 18 crime that was -- that you've been convicted of, because of the
- 19 factors the court stated, the range was between 18 and
- 20 24 months was a sufficient sentence that's not greater than
- 21 what's necessary to meet the goals of sentencing, and based on
- 22 the aggravating factors it merited at 24-month period of
- 23 incarceration.
- 24 Before I impose the sentence as stated, any legal
- 25 objections by the government?

- 1 MR. KELLER: No, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: By the defense?
- 3 MR. MINKIN: None, Your Honor.
- 4 THE COURT: All right.
- 5 MR. MCCORRISTON: Did you want to state --
- 6 THE COURT: Yeah, I'm going to address that in a
- 7 minute, Mr. McCorriston.
- 8 So the sentence is imposed as stated. The court has
- 9 considered the advisory guideline computations, which weren't
- 10 any actually, and the sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C.,
- 11 Section 3553(a).
- 12 As I explain more fully in my assessment of the specific
- 13 aggravating and mitigating factors in this case, I have
- 14 considered Ms. Lum Davis's history and characteristics as well
- 15 as the serious harm to our community caused by her offense.
- I paid special attention to the plea agreement.
- 17 I've read the letters received on her behalf, and I
- 18 believe the sentence provides just punishment and serves as
- 19 adequate deterrence to others.
- I've considered the sentencing guidelines and the policy
- 21 statements and the law.
- 22 All right. You did plead guilty pursuant to a plea
- 23 agreement. In that agreement, Ms. Lum Davis, you did waive or
- 24 give up certain appeal rights. If, however, you feel that you
- 25 have a basis to file a notice of appeal, there is a deadline to

- 1 do so, and that's within 14 days after your judgment is filed,
- 2 and that should be filed sometime this week.
- If you file after the 14 days, you could be found to be
- 4 too late and to given up or waived your right to appeal.
- 5 Do you understand this?
- 6 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.
- 7 THE COURT: All right. So I don't think there's any
- 8 objection to self-surrender; is that correct?
- 9 MR. KELLER: Correct, Your Honor.
- 10 THE COURT: She has no criminal record; she's been
- 11 compliant with pretrial release, so I think that's appropriate.
- MR. KELLER: Correct. Agreed, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: So she will self-surrender. We'll give
- 14 you a date, that's depending on the designation by the Bureau
- 15 of Prisons, and I can make any recommendations, if you wish me
- 16 to.
- MR. MINKIN: And we do, Your Honor. We would like
- 18 that recommendation to Dublin, California.
- THE COURT: Because of the proximity to family?
- 20 Mr. Minkin?
- MR. MINKIN: Excuse me?
- 22 THE COURT: You want me to recommend that, so I will
- 23 tell the Bureau of Prisons because of proximity to family?
- MR. MINKIN: Yes.
- THE COURT: Okay.

- 1 MR. MINKIN: And unless the Court would be willing
- 2 to do community -- do home confinement under the auspices of
- 3 probation?
- 4 THE COURT: No.
- 5 Okay. Did you have something that I needed to address,
- 6 Ms. Ing-Dodson?
- 7 THE PROBATION OFFICER: No, Your Honor.
- 8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
- 9 Okay. I'm sorry?
- 10 THE COURTROOM MANAGER: The date?
- 11 THE COURT: Yeah, if you would give us the date for
- 12 self-surrender.
- 13 THE COURTROOM MANAGER: Your Honor, it will be
- 14 Friday, March 10th, 2023, to the facility designated by Bureau
- 15 of Prisons.
- 16 THE COURT: Yeah, that would be by noon to the
- 17 facility designated by Bureau of Prisons. Is that sufficient
- 18 time?
- MR. MINKIN: I was writing and I missed the date.
- THE COURT: I'm sorry. March 10th by noon to the
- 21 facility designated by the Bureau of Prisons, and so I was
- 22 asking is that sufficient time since she'll be
- 23 self-surrendering at her -- traveling at her own expense.
- MR. MINKIN: Would it be possible to allow an
- 25 additional 30 days or so so that things could be set up for the

- 1 daughter in California?
- THE COURT: Yeah, that's fine. So you want -- that
- 3 would take us, Ms. Elkington, to April?
- 4 THE COURTROOM MANAGER: April 14th.
- 5 THE COURT: April 14th? All right. So April 14,
- 6 2023, by 12 noon to the designated facility. You do have to
- 7 appear by that time. And if for some reason you don't, a bench
- 8 warrant will issue for your arrest. So make sure that you
- 9 self-surrender at that time.
- I assume she's going to travel at her own expense, not at
- 11 the marshals'?
- MR. MINKIN: Yes, that's correct.
- 13 THE COURT: All right.
- 14 MR. MINKIN: And though the Bureau of Prisons will
- 15 make the final determination, did I understand the Court that
- 16 Court will at least attempt a recommendation at Dublin?
- 17 THE COURT: Yeah. I'm going to include that in the
- 18 judgment that the court recommends placement at BOP facility in
- 19 Dublin, California, because of proximity to family.
- MR. MINKIN: Thank you.
- 21 THE COURT: All right. The court will review the
- 22 forfeiture order. The forfeiture order will be signed and then
- 23 attached as part of the judgment in this case.
- 24 All right. Anything else on behalf of the government?
- MR. KELLER: No, Your Honor.

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               THE COURT: Mr. Minkin, anything on behalf of
  Ms. Lum Davis?
 2
 3
               MR. MINKIN: Nothing.
 4
               THE COURT: Ms. Ing-Dodson, anything else the court
 5
   needs to address?
 6
               THE PROBATION OFFICER: No, Your Honor.
 7
               THE COURT: All right. Very good. Then we stand in
 8
    recess. Good day, everyone.
9
                (Proceedings concluded at 2:41 P.M.)
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1	COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	I, DEBRA READ, Official Court Reporter, United
4	States District Court, District of Hawaii, do hereby certify
5	that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §753 the foregoing is a complete,
6	true, and correct transcript of the stenographically reported
7	proceedings held in the above-entitled matter and that the
8	transcript page format is in conformance with the regulations
9	of the Judicial Conference of the United States.
10	DATED at Honolulu, Hawaii, January 23, 2023.
11	ziizz de nenezaza, namazi, canaazi ze, zezet
12	
13	<u>/s/ Debra Read</u>
14	DEBRA READ, CSR CRR RMR RDR
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